



THE SEAFARER

July—December 2015



The official newsletter
of USCGC JAMES (WMSL 754)

COMMISSIONING CGC JAMES (WMSL 754)



*USCGC JAMES pulling into Boston Harbor to be commissioned into the fleet of the United States Coast Guard
August 3rd 2015*

The commissioning of a cutter is one of the most important traditional milestones in its lifetime as it represents the acceptance of the cutter by the Coast Guard and her entry into active service. This momentous tradition for the Coast Guard, dates back to the commissioning for the first revenue cutter *Massachusetts*, launched on July 15th, 1791. Since that date, hundreds of Coast Guard cutters have undergone this transition from a silent hull to a fully active cutter of the fleet. August 8th, 2015 marked the transition for the newest national security cutter of the Coast Guard fleet.

Decorated with a rainbow of signal flags and pennants from bow to stern and flying the largest national ensign, CGC JAMES was looking its best for the thousands of visitors who came to celebrate the commissioning of the cutter in Boston, Massachusetts. It was deemed only appropriate to honor the sacrifice and service of the cutter's namesake, Captain Joshua James, whom once served and saved hundreds of people as a member of the U.S Lifesaving Service in Hull, Massachusetts.

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COMMISSIONING **CGC JAMES(WMSL 754)**

The weeks leading up to the commissioning ceremony were comprised of excitement, anticipation, and meticulous planning from each member of the crew. Some studied the lay of the pier in Boston to ensure the cutter would be positioned perfectly, some scrubbed the hull of the ship, while others assisted in composing the Commissioning book so each plank owner was acknowledged for their diligent work of bringing the cutter to life. In addition to the efforts of the crew, CGC JAMES received and greatly appreciated the assistance from Coast Guard Atlantic provided Area (LANTAREA) WMSL Support, LANTAREA Public Affairs, Navy League, and Coast Guard Auxiliarists. For many, bringing the ship to life was a significant milestone not only for our Service, but for the Nation as the Coast Guard continues to serve and protect the citizens of the United States.

On August 2nd, CGC JAMES arrived just outside of Hull, Massachusetts to honor the foundation and history of the cutter's namesake. While anchored, the cutter overlooked Telegraph Hill where Captain Joshua James once maintained a vigilant watch in heavy weather for vessel in distress off the Lighthouse Channel and about 1/2 mile southwest of Boston Light in 1888.

Captain Andrew Tiongson seized the opportunity to inform the crew over the 1MC of this historic site and the significance of the cutter's position. After one hundred and twenty-seven years, the Coast Guard's newest national security cutter continues Captain James' vigilant watch.

The following morning the cutter was accompanied by a fleet of firefighting boats as well as Coast Guard assets to support the inbound evolution. The cutter re-

ceived a warm welcome and as a result of careful planning, was ready for the festivities of commissioning week. It began with tours for family and friends followed by tours for the general public. During that week alone, the crew provided tours for nearly a thousand visitors to include staff of the USS CONSTITUTION Museum, Hull Life-Saving Museum, and Coast Guard Heritage Museum.



August 8th 2015, commissioning day finally arrived and the crew made a final check to ensure everything was in place and everyone was in position for the ceremony. The special guests of the event included ADM Paul F. Zukunft, Commandant of the Coast Guard, MCPO CG Steven W. Cantrell, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard, Mrs. Charlene James Benoit, Ship's Sponsor, VADM William "Dean" Lee, Atlantic Area Commander, MCPO Charles R. Bushey, Atlantic Area Command Master



COMMISSIONING CGC JAMES(WMSL 754)

CAPT Andrew J. Tiongson, Commanding Officer of CGC JAMES, SCPO Frank D. Williams, Command Senior Chief of CGC JAMES, Mr. Reid Oslin, Chairman Commissioning Committee, Mr. Brian Cuccias, President, Ingalls Shipbuilding, Mrs. Charlene James Benoit, our cutter sponsor, Mrs. Donna Calderara, and Mrs. Sally Snowman, Long looking glass presenters.

The ceremony began with the presentation of colors conducted by the Coast Guard Ceremonial Honor Guard and the Coast Guard band from New London, Connecticut. Immediately followed was the history of Captain Joshua James and words from keynote speakers, Mr. Brian Cuccias, President of Ingalls Shipbuilding, Vice Admiral William Lee, Commander of Atlantic Area and Admiral Paul Zukunft, Commandant of the United States Coast Guard. Their words were brief, but powerful. Notably, Vice Admiral William Lee discussed the unique experience of bringing the cutter to life and the significance it brings to a constantly evolving Coast Guard.

“Joshua James began his life-saving career at 15 and saved more than 600 lives,” said Admiral Zukunft.

“What better namesake for a ship and crew that will serve our Nation with pride for the next half century saving lives, stopping smugglers, maintaining safety and security in the Arctic and wherever national objectives may require.”



Lastly the cutter was placed in commission status as directed by the Commandant of the Coast Guard. Selected crew members proceeded to hoist the colors and commission pennant onboard CGC

JAMES under the direction of Captain Tiongson. The first watch was set as Ms. Donna Calderara and Ms. Sally Snowman passed the looking glass representing the first watch to ENS Jennifer Patron and BOSN Christopher Brown. The ceremony concluded with the



rest of the crew bringing the ship to life by energizing electronic equipment and manning the rails from bow to stern. As the tunes of Semper Paratus echoed throughout the base, the crew stood at attention admiring all their hard-work finally coming into fruition.

COMMISSIONING CGC JAMES(WMSL 754)



COMMISSIONING CRUISE

From Pascagoula, Mississippi to Halifax, Nova Scotia, and everything in between, CGC JAMES traveled along the eastern coastline discovering the capabilities of the cutter as well as presenting the newest cutter to the general public. While underway, the crew assertively worked on various qualifications within their respective department. Each day brought new challenges and learning opportunities. The following is a glimpse of the statistics of accomplishments during the cruise:



Distance Travelled

5635.7 Nautical Miles

Tours (1,795 Total Visitors)

Pensacola (24)

Key West (52)

Boston (898)

Baltimore (790)

Halifax (17)

New York (14)

Engineering evolutions

6 Fueling Evolutions

5 evolutions of MGO 235,930 gallons

1 evolution JP-5 15,000

70+ BECCES evolutions

DC Basic: 86% completed

DC Advance: 61% Completed

Small Boat Ops

13 boat launches (LRI/OTH)

Special Sea Detail

Pascagoula

Pensacola

Dry Tortuga, Key West

Key West

Boston

Halifax

Baltimore

New York City

Public Affairs Events

Photo Ops

CGC EAGLE and CGC Cathleen Moore

Media Articles

WJZ CBS 13, FOX 45, Baltimore Sun,

WMAR ABC 2, The Key West Citizen,

gCaptain, , Coast Guard Compass



COMMISSIONING CRUISE

DRY TORTUGA, FLORIDA

Upon departing from Pascagoula, Mississippi, the first port call of the cruise was Pensacola, Florida followed by Dry Tortuga National Park in Florida. The cutter anchored off Fort Jefferson and the crew took advantage of the opportunity to visit the fort for a few hours.

The picturesque fading shades of blue water, coral reefs, and an assortment of marine life were a much needed change of scenery from the months of construction and industrial life-

style in the shipyard.



Members of the crew learned about the rich history of the fort. Other members simply relaxed on the beach and snorkeled with the hundreds of tropical fish. Notably, the inbound evolution was the first time the crew anchored.



KEY WEST, FLORIDA

The second liberty port call for CGC JAMES was Key West, Florida. The cutter moored next to the CGC INGHAM (WHEC 35), a decommissioned high endurance cutter transformed to a museum after fifty years of service. Remarkably, the



namesake of CGC INGHAM, Treasury Secretary Samuel D. Ingham, is a relative of JAMES' own ENS Tony Buzzini.

During the brief visit, members of the crew also had the chance to visit attractions such as the home of Ernest Hemingway and the Most Southern Point of the United States.



BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

The most demanding yet the most exciting port call for the crew was the week-long visit to Boston, MA. Prior to the commissioning ceremony, the crew participated in many events to include the unveil-



ing of the Coast Guard Stamp, a formal social

hosted by the USS Constitution Museum, a Crew Boat race against surrounding units and lastly, a crew gathering hosted by The Point, a local restaurant owned by a former Coast Guardsman. CGC JAMES is extremely appreciative of the praise and support of the surrounding businesses and organizations. Through-



out the week, the cutter also opened for tours to the general public. Hundreds of visitors came to see the newest asset of the Coast Guard. A young man by the name of Andrew Shine was so inspired by the cutter, he replicated CGC JAMES with his LEGO Set! It was an honor to have such an impact on individuals such as Andrew.



COMMISSIONING CRUISE

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

CGC JAMES steamed its way to Halifax, Nova Scotia for a liberty port call following the adventures of Boston. CGC JAMES was hosted by HMCS ST. JOHN'S of the Canadian Department of National Defense. During the brief visit, the junior officers of CGC JAMES had the opportunity to tour HMCS ST. JOHN'S led by Sub-Lieutenant Tristan Lapointe. Following the tour, the junior officers of both vessels socialized within the wardroom of the HMCS ST. JOHN'S. They shared their many

similarities and experiences as the junior members of officer core as well as the cultural differences. It was an influential and enlightening experience that will carry forth for both groups.

In addition to establishing relationships with the Canadian counterparts, members of CGC JAMES explored the local area of Halifax. Many places of interest in-



cluded the Harbor Front as well as the Halifax Citadel National Historic Site.

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Baltimore was one of the busiest port calls with the numerous special visitors including the Director of National Intelligence, James R. Clapper. Director Clapper along with distinguished visitors received a welcome brief by the commanding officer, CAPT Andrew Tiongson, viewed a video showing the timeline and events of the JAMES' construc-

tion, shakedown cruise, and commissioning. The guests toured the ship and received an outstanding briefing by IS1 Lucas Hull on the

ship's capability. The cutter was also open to the public for the majority of its visit and provided tours for over eight-hundred people. Numerous news stations were present and interviewed many of our members. It was a memorable experience and we thank Sail Baltimore for their hospitality.



NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

The final stop before homeport was New York City, where CGC JAMES sailed in front of the iconic Statue of Liberty and paid respects to Ground Zero before mooring up next to the USS INTREPID (CV-11). Although the cutter was not open for public tours, many who were visiting the USS INTREPID took photos of CGC JAMES from the flight deck of the other vessel. The crew enjoyed the sights and sounds of the Big Apple during the

liberty port call. Many visited Times Square and the 9/11 Memorial. The crew also prepared for the last leg of the Commissioning

Cruise to our homeport in Charleston, SC.



COMMISSIONING CRUISE



COMMISSIONING CRUISE



CAPTAIN'S CORNER



Wow! Wow!! Wow!!! It is nearly impossible for me to describe in words what the crew has accomplished over the past few months. I will simply say that what they accomplished is phenomenal—accepting a crew cutter, bringing her to life, sailing her for nearly two months, and show casing her for the world to see the greatness of the Coast Guard and our crew—Phenomenal!!! I am extremely proud of our crew. They are the BEST! There is one thing I am not at a loss of words for and this is the great support we received from our families and friends. We could not have accomplished all that we did without you. The crew and I am grateful for your support—Thank you. I hope you enjoy our latest issue of the Seafarer. It is full of information concerning our adventures—Enjoy.

Best Regards,

CAPT Andy Tiongson

XO's COMMENTS

Greetings to JAMES family and friends! These past few months have been nothing short of amazing. Despite stepping aboard the cutter for the first time this past June, the crew has accomplished more than is imaginable, including planning and executing a landmark and picturesque commissioning in Boston, MA on August 8th, 2015. Notably, many of you were in attendance for the commissioning, enhancing the event and solidifying yourselves in Coast Guard history. In addition to commissioning, the crew tackled myriad qualifications and operations - they stood up inport and underway watch sections; they achieved milestone and important certifications for the cutter in its quest for worldwide deployment; they conducted small boat and helicopter operations; they showcased JAMES to key internal and external stakeholders throughout seven U.S. and international ports of call; and, most importantly, they had fun. Without a doubt, we have the best crew, cutter, and family support in the Coast Guard. Thank you for all that you do for us, the Coast Guard, and JAMES.

Sincerely,
LCDR Matt Moyer

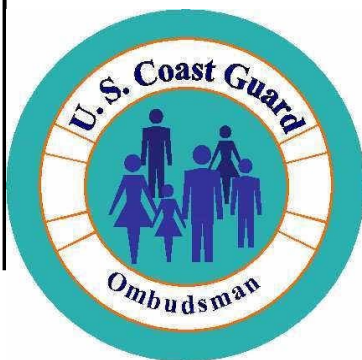


COMMAND SENIOR CHIEF



Greetings! First, let me begin by saying what an honor it is to be your new Command Senior Chief! I promise that I will do everything in my power to do what needs to be done in order to maintain the awesome attitude and family environment that has quickly made JAMES the most talked about unit in the Coast Guard! At the same time, I plan to promote and ensure all of our shipmates and family members adhere to and live by our Command Philosophy: Mission, Shipmates, and Proficiency. Let me also discuss some of the items I have on my desk right now. As the Captain is wrapping up his personalized meetings with the crew, learning all of the things that everyone wished he knew, I plan to have a similar round of meetings during the month of November. With that said, please start thinking of things to talk about, and, through your loved ones, let us know what is on your mind! Also, I have been working closely with the Leadership & Diversity Advisory Council, making sure that we have all of the different programs up and running so that you and the crew has every resource at its disposal. Be prepared to hear about the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program, as well as the Command Drug and Alcohol Representative Program in the very near future! As always, if there is anything at all that I can do for you, or you simply have a question that no one else owns, shoot me an email or swing by my office. I am here for you.

Cheers,
FSCS Chad Barrett,



OMBUDSMAN'S OUTREACH

I encourage all the spouses to email me if you have not been receiving my emails and E-vites. If you have a question, I will do my best to answer it or point you in the direction of someone who can.

You can email me at: Caycelacorte@yahoo.com.

FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS

CWO FRANK WILLIAMS



Former OSCS Williams, was one of the first senior enlisted members of JAMES' precommissioning detail to report. He established Leadership Development and Assessment Course and Command Drug and Alcohol Representative programs and started the process for selecting candidates and getting instruction for victim advocates and the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program. Epitomizing the concepts of mentorship and leadership, he was selected as the second Command Senior Chief onboard JAMES proving his commitment to the crew and the Command Philosophy, "Mission, Shipmates, Proficiency". Mr. William's long-term planning skills and clear understanding of the crew's work-life needs were essential in the extremely positive morale and success of the commissioning ceremony and patrol. His dedicated efforts to balance work and liberty ensured the overall health, wellness, and productivity of the JAMES crew while away deployed from homeport for nearly eight months. We wish him fair winds and following seas as he continues on in his Coast Guard career.

SN MARTIN FLYNN

SN Martin Flynn was amongst one of the original crew members reporting to CGC JAMES and quickly became an integral member of the crew. During his time on board, he qualified in Helm and Lookout where he assumed the helmsman position during many difficult port inbound evolutions. He also qualified in Basic and Advanced Damage Control and Gangway Petty Officer of the Watch (GPOW). He will continue on his career at Boatswain Mate (BM) "A" School in Yorktown, Virginia. We wish you the very best and fair winds and following seas!



SN DANIEL MILLER

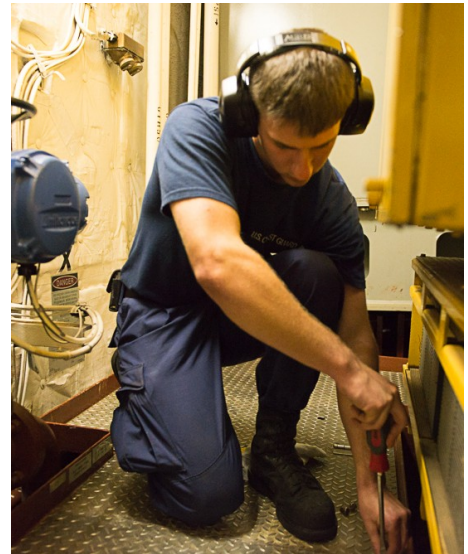


SN Daniel Miller reported in the early fall of 2014. Since reporting, he qualified in Basic Damage Control and Gangway Petty Officer of the Watch (GPOW). He will continue his career at Operation Specialist (OS) "A" School in Petaluma, California. We wish you the very best and fair winds and following seas!

FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS

SN LOGAN MILLER

Former FN Logan Miller took advantage of the vast assortment of rates onboard JAMES and learned as much as he could from the various experiences. He originally became a member of the Engineering Department and qualified in security, Basic and Advance Damage Control, before deciding he would like to continue his career as the Boatswain's Mate rate. He pursued a Helm and Lookout qualification before his departure to Boatswain Mate (BM) "A" School in Yorktown, Virginia. We wish you the very best and fair winds and following seas!



FN JONATHAN MERKLE



FN Jonathan Merkle was a member of the Engineering Department and qualified as a Security Watch stander as well as Basic and Advance Damage Control. He will continue on his career at Storekeeper (SK) "A" School in Petaluma, California. We wish you the very best and fair winds and following seas!



WELCOME ABOARD!

MK2 MICHAEL LOVETT



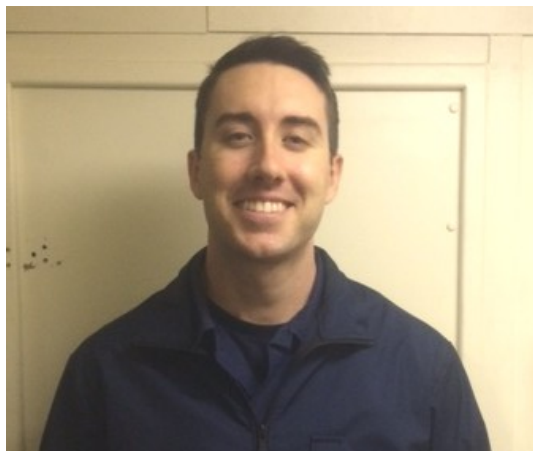
MK2 Lovett is from Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He is 28yrs old. He has been in the Coast Guard for a little over 9yrs. MK2 has a beautiful wife, Ciara Lovett and an awesome black Labrador puppy named Barker. He joined the Coast Guard, to follow in the footsteps of his older brother Mike Dixon, who is his mentor and was an OS and retired from the CG after serving 23 years, he was also his recruiter. MK2 is glad to be a part of this organization, and feels very fortunate to be attached to the CGC JAMES. MK2 says, "The crew and command are great, the food is exceptional, I particularly love the cheesy grits at breakfast! Looking forward to serving and learning from my shipmates! Semper Paratus."

OS3 DUSTYN WEEMS

OS3 Dustyn Weems is from Las Cruces, New Mexico and reported from Operation Specialist (OS) "A" School in Petaluma, California. Her first unit prior to boot camp was the CGC KUKUI in Honolulu, Hawaii. She anticipated the NSC would be a large vessel, but she explains her initial surprise of how large a 418ft cutter is compared to her 225ft cutter experience. Prior to reporting she heard many great comments about the crew of CGC JAMES and was eager to become a member. Amongst the comradery of the crew, she also explained the morale was unlike other cutters. On her free time she enjoys playing volleyball and fishing.



FN LOGAN CHRISTOPHER



FN Logan Christopher originated from Oklahoma and joined CGC JAMES out of boot camp in Cape May, New Jersey. He initially anticipated feeling disoriented due to the mere size of the vessel and crew. However, upon reporting to CGC JAMES, he found the crew to be very welcoming and exceptional. During his time onboard, he wishes to learn as much as he can while qualifying. Furthermore, he would like to leave a lasting contribution onboard CGC JAMES. FN Christopher is intending to attend Information Technician (IT) "A" School follow this tour.

WELCOME ABOARD!

FN EDDIE SANTANA

FN Eddie Santana is from Dorado, Puerto Rico and arrived to CGC JAMES from boot camp in Cape May, New Jersey. Upon reporting, he sought to gain as much knowledge and experience from the crew and eagerly worked towards his qualifications. Furthermore, he was initially surprised about the cohesiveness of the crew and the general friendliness. He hopes to leave a good impression and many positive contributions for CGC JAMES. Following his initial unit, he would like to attend either Machinery Technician (MK), Damage Control (DC), or Storekeeper (SK) "A" School.



SN CHASE SMITH



SN Chase Smith hails from Katy, Texas and arrived from boot camp in Cape May, NJ. He intends to pursue the Machinery Technician (MK) or Damage Control (DC) upon completion of his first tour onboard CGC JAMES. He anticipated the pace to be very quick and found that although his expectations were a reality, many people were ready and able to help with his questions. He was particularly impressed with the capacity and capabilities of the cutter. He mentioned CGC JAMES is by far one of the neatest ships in the fleet because of its advanced equipment and efficiency. We look forward to SN Smith as another great member of the CGC JAMES team.



ADVANCEMENT AND PROMOTIONS!

Congratulations to the following members of CGC JAMES on their advancement and promotions!

CDR KEAN



MK1 SANTO TOMAS



MKCM MACDONALD



MK2 LOVETT



ADVANCEMENT AND PROMOTIONS!

Congratulations to the following members of CGC JAMES on their advancement and promotions!

MK2 FILIPPONE



BM2 REGAN



BM2 WISECUP



BM2 ETTINGER



OS2 BENN



OS2 TORRES



FOLLOW CGC JAMES (WMSL 754)!

As we continue the Joshua James legacy,
follow CGC JAMES Facebook page for frequent updates.

<https://www.facebook.com/USCGCJAMES>



USCGC JAMES (WMSL 754)

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History of Joshua James

Joshua James was probably the most celebrated lifesaver in the world, credited with saving hundreds of lives from the age of 15 when he first joined the Massachusetts Humane Society until his death at the age of 75 while on duty with the U.S. Life-Saving Service.

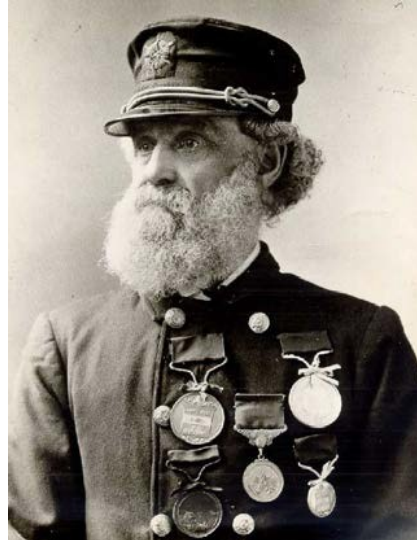
He was honored with the highest medals of the Humane Society, the United States, and many other organizations.

His father, mother, brother, wife, and son were also heroic lifesavers.

A special silver medal was struck for Joshua by the Humane Society in 1886, for "brave and faithful service of more than 40

years." The report said "During this time he assisted in saving over 100 lives."

The most famous rescue of his career, for which he received the Humane Society's gold medal, as well as the Gold Life-Saving Medal from the United States Government, took place between the 25th and 26th of November, 1888. During that period he and his men saved the lives of 29 persons from five vessels.



More information on Joshua James can be found at
http://www.uscg.mil/history/people/Joshua_James.asp
http://www.uscg.mil/history/people/Joshua_James_Interview.asp



*On behalf of the entire crew of the CGC JAMES, we would like to bestow our sincere appreciation for the friends and family who support our daily efforts to prepare the ship into operational status. Whether underway or inport, our families and friends are a constant motivator and our **brave and faithful service** is for you.*